

Evernight

Claudia Gray

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Claudia Gray's *Evernight* is the first book of the vampire series, which begins with a likable, awkward girl being forced to go to a new school, Evernight Academy. The school is filled with rich snobs, while our heroine, Bianca Oliver, is one of the few middle class kids there, and thus is outcasted. Among the scholarship kids, Bianca can only attend because both her parents have gotten jobs as teachers there. While trying to fit in with the popular crowd, Bianca meets Lucas, a rebellious scholarship kid who Bianca crushes on. Their relationship changes completely when Bianca finally acts on her natural instincts...and bites him. It is revealed that Bianca is a born-vampire, thus technically not dead, and that Evernight is a school for vampires to help them with adapting to the modern world. Another twist is later revealed when Lucas is found out to be a member of Black Cross, a group of elite vampire hunters, to find out the headmistress's secret: why did they let humans into the school? This is controversial for many of the vampires who are used to acting their true nature at the school, and have difficulty controlling their blood thirst for the human students. In the end, Bianca must choose between love, and everything she's ever known to be true.

The book has sexual themes, including an allusion to Bianca and Lucas having sex, but it is otherwise very mild in terms of graphicness. The book is certainly more complex, more well written, and with more interesting themes than its teen vampire series counterpart, *Twilight*. I highly recommend this book for any young girl or woman.